

STRENUOUS WEEK IN LEGISLATIVE CIRCLES

34 MEMBERS IN ALABAMA

Try to Protect State's Interest in Flight.

FUNDING BOARD ROW

Dibrell and Taylor Try to Put State's Credit in Bad and Force Legislators to Return—Hooper Offers to Pay Interest Out of His Own Pocket.

The past week has been a strenuous one in the Tennessee legislature, and it will go down in history as one of the exceptional events of the State. On Wednesday it developed that certain members of the Republican and Independent Democratic parties had deserted their ranks and had joined the regular Democrats in an effort to change the election law and put the State in control of the interests which had abused their power until the people had revolted and changed the law. This election law was passed over the protest of the Independent Democrats and knowing that it could be passed over the governor's veto by the same vote as passed the bill, twenty Republicans and fourteen Democrats, all members of the House of Representatives departed Wednesday night from the capitol and when the legislature met the following morning it developed that these members had taken flight and had established headquarters at Decatur, Alabama, therefore breaking the constitutional quorum.

The insurgents declare that they had not been properly treated and that they were unable to get recognition from the presiding officer of the House, and that to escape further humiliation, they had, for the best interest of Tennessee decided to leave the State, thus breaking the quorum. During their absence no appropriation bills or revenue or assessment measures can be passed and the wheels of state government have practically ceased to revolve.

HOOPER WOULD SAVE THE STATE'S CREDIT

Rather than that the state's credit should suffer by the "filibustering tactics" of the majority of the state funding board in refusing to pay the balance of the April interest on bonds Gov. Hooper announces that he will checkmate this move by paying off bondholders out of his own pocket having full faith that the interest will be provided for in the usual way.

At a meeting of the state funding board, called at noon Saturday by State Treasurer Taylor and Comptroller Dibrell, those two members voted to refuse to pay the remaining coupons for the interest due April 1, these coupons amounting to nearly \$3,000. Gov. Hooper voted against this proposition.

The reason alleged for their action was that there did not seem to be any prospect that there would be an appropriation bill this session, and that there would be no authority for "paying out this interest. Because thirty-four members of the lower house have broken a quorum, the fear arose, the members said, that there would not be an appropriation bill.

The direct cause of the meeting of the board was the request of George E. Blake, secretary of the funding board that coupons in possession be paid by the comptroller, the coupons amount-

ing to about \$1,000. After a conference between the comptroller and state treasurer, Mr. Blake was advised that the coupons would not be honored. These had already been paid by the New York banks which handle the state's money. The interest due April 1, is \$36,000, and all except \$3,000 has already been paid in the usual way.

This decision is intended to tie up the appropriations for the charitable institutions and for the governor's expense account, and some minor items. The majority of the funding board state that the tie-up does not include judge's salaries, or those of state officials and clerks where the expense is fixed. The comptroller and treasurer say that they will pay out no more warrants of the kinds named unless they have assurance an appropriation bill will be passed by the legislature.

When Gov. Hooper was interviewed as to the action of the comptroller and state treasurer in threatening to cut off payments on interest on the state debt and appropriations for charitable institutions and state officials, he laughingly remarked:

"It looks like the comptroller and treasurer are filibustering, doesn't it?"

"Did you oppose their action on the funding board?" he was asked.

Well, it was this way: About noon they came to my office to hold a meeting of the funding board in regard to the matter. I knew what was coming. I could smell 'politics' all over the proposition.

"They pointed out to me the provision in the appropriation bill of 1909, specifying the interest installments which should be paid. The last was January, 1911, and the payment of April 1, 1911, was not included. I called their attention to the date of this act—May 1, 1909—and asked Mr. Dibrell if he did not pay the interest due April 1, 1909 before the appropriation bill was passed. He said he did I ask him if he had not already paid nearly all of the interest due April 1, 1911. He admitted he had paid all but about two or three thousand out of a total of thirty-six thousand dollars. He said however that he had always made these payments on the assumption that the appropriation bill would pass.

"I then stated that I was willing to assume now that the appropriation bill would pass. The comptroller replied that it was a misdemeanor to pay without authority of an appropriation bill. I then suggested that if it were a misdemeanor for him to pay 'the remaining \$2,000 of the interest, it must have been a felony to pay the thirty-four thousand dollars already paid.

"All that occurred at this conference took place between 12 and 1 o'clock. Nobody was present but the funding board, and yet the entire proceedings were heralded abroad in the 2 o'clock editions of all the afternoon papers in the state. I did not give the matter to the papers.

"The purpose of all this is extremely transparent. Payments of interest and to state institutions are to be denied in order that the blame may be placed upon the shoulders of absent members of the legislature.

"As to the unpaid balance of the April 1 interest, I will pay that myself to the bondholder, in order to prevent any possible injury to the state's credit either by the filibuster of the legislature or the comptroller.

"As to the state institutions for which appropriations have been made biennially from time immemorial without objection, and in regard to an appropriation for which there can be no doubt, if the comptroller and treasurer desire to deny them necessary funds,

with the money lying in the treasury, it is up to them.

"I do not deem it improper to make this statement in view of the fact that the proceedings of the board have already been given out."

TAYLOR SAYS 'TIS NOT HOOPER'S AFFAIR

Treasurer Taylor refused to pay more interest on the debt when demands were made at the window.

The Trust Company of America, New York, presented two batches of interest for payment. These were on the penitentiary bonds. The first was for \$875 and the other for \$22.50. In accordance with the announcement Saturday payment of these claims was refused.

Treasurer Taylor said:

"I see in the papers that Governor Hooper says he will pay the defaulting interest on the state debt and stand for it himself rather than see the state fall behind. Governor Hooper has nothing to do with the payment on the interest on the debt. The demands come to me and are held in my office. The only way he can do anything is to buy the bonds."

Four batches of interest have been asked for since the position of the comptroller and treasurer has been taken. Mr. Taylor is holding these claims in his office. He says he will hold them until matters are arranged to protect him in making payments.

PARROTT IS BEING COMMENDED

Representative From This County Praised for Effort to Defeat Election Law.

Representative Frank Parrott is one of the thirty-four men who are balking the effort of the regulars to enact an election law which will give the whiskey people control of the State again. Representative Parrott is being commended by his people at home for his stand. In fact nothing else could have been expected of him and had his course been otherwise the people who elected him would have been disappointed.

Numerous letters have been sent to the insurgent representatives who are located temporarily in Alabama, commending them for their action, and Representative Parrott has been the recipient of several letters from his constituents.

The following telegram was sent to Representative Parrott Monday night with the signature of a large number of the town's citizens.

"Newport, Tenn., April 17, 1911.

YOUNG WIFE BURNS TO DEATH; HUSBAND ALSO FATALLY BURNED

Mrs. Jud Holoway, wife of a young farmer living in the Old Fourth District, about two miles East of Briar Thicket and at the end of the Cocke county pike road, was burned to death in a frightful manner, Saturday and her husband received burns which will result in his death.

The young farmer was heating a pot of tar over the fire in his room, when the tar caught fire and, with the idea of preventing a serious fire, he hurried

PIKE PEOPLE GET CRUSHER

Corporation, for Certain Considerations, Permits Use.

QUESTION UP LAST YEAR

The Pike Commission Stated that the Town Would Have Eleven Feet of Macadam on the Streets Unless Allowed to Use Crusher.

In consideration of the laying of sixteen feet instead of eleven feet of macadam on the principal streets of Newport, the Pike Commission has been given permission to use the corporation's rock crusher. Last year a vain effort was made to get the use of this crusher but the old Board of Aldermen and Mayor refused to grant the favor and as a result the work planned at that time on the Newport streets was not taken up.

The new contractors mean business and intend to have the roads of the county macadamized before December and the Newport work is included in the part of their work. The Pike Commission found that there was opposition to the use of the crusher and could see no reason why a wider street should be made in Newport than in the rural sections, especially as the rock had to be hauled several miles in order to make that street wider and as a result the matter was presented to the Board of Aldermen and the Board was made to understand that the macadam would be eleven feet in width if the rock had to be hauled or sixteen feet in width if the corporation's crusher could be used. The Board of Aldermen decided to grant the use of the crusher.

The Pike Commission also has made other concessions to the town and will put macadam on Church street for five blocks, the width of the street, from curb to curb. The Pike Commission will also put the three cross streets in the business section in good condition and will use sixteen feet of macadam on these.

Work has begun on the Church street and the contractors will have it speedily under way. Horace Mann has the contract for this work.

"Hon. F. W. Parrott, Birmingham, Ala.

"All Best Citizens endorse your course. Stand pat.

"Signed: "J. P. Hedrick, L. G. Dwyer, John Holt, W. G. Purkey, E. H. Moore, J. S. Griffin, John Glenn, D. K. Rowe, A. A. Cates, A. G. Neas, John Weaver, Felix Shults, S. W. Kyker, H. L. W. Taylor, Robt. Dennis, Geo. F. Smith, C. B. Allen, F. E. Early, S. E. Rowe, Geo. W. Gorrell, C. A. Roberson, G. W. Knisley, R. P. Driskill, M. A. Roadman, G. W. Willis, W. S. Hendricks, E. S. Early, N. A. Huff, L. S. Allen, J. W. D. Stokely, A. E. Sparks, B. D. Jones, J. M. Jones, J. W. O'Hara.

DEATH CLAIMS JOHN A. BALCH

Well Known Cocke County Citizen Expires.

SICK BUT A FEW DAYS

Had Returned From South Carolina Last Friday, Sick, and His Condition Did Not Improve, Resulting in Death Monday.

John A. Balch, one of the most widely known stockmen in East Tennessee, a man known throughout North Carolina and South Carolina, died at his home near Parrottsville, Monday night at 11 o'clock.

The deceased was 69 years, 8 months and 17 days old. He had been in apparent good health until recently when he went to South Carolina on a trip. He returned home last Friday night and it was evident that he was in a very precarious condition. Bowel trouble refused to improve with treatment and Monday afternoon the immediate members of his family were summoned to his bedside. His heart failed him, and death came shortly after 11 o'clock.

All the immediate members of his family were present with the exception of two children, Fred S. Balch, who was in Montgomery, Ala., and Miss Edith, who was in Abbeville, S. C.

Among the children who survive are Mrs. Frank W. Parrott, whose husband is at present in Birmingham, Ala., where he is kept from returning to the State because of his being a member of the insurgent branch of the legislature.

The following children survive:

Mrs. F. W. Parrott, Mrs. M. C. Harned, C. D. Balch, Mrs. R. B. Smith, Mrs. B. F. Easterly, Fred S. Balch of Montgomery, Ala., Miss Edith Balch, Mrs. Calvin Blazer Mrs. Cera Barger of Texas, sisters, as well as one brother, L. S. Balch, also survive.

Interment was made in Harned's Chapel graveyard Wednesday with Revs. Matney and Newman officiating.

W. G. Chapman, brother-in-law from Abbeville, S. C., was an attendant at the funeral, and hundreds of friends also gathered to follow the remains to their last resting place.

RELATION OF TWO SENATORS

Tennesseans in Washington Are Keenly Interested in Signs of Soreness.

Washington, April 18.—Tennesseans here are keenly and somewhat interested in the relations between the two senators from their State. Senator Bob Taylor does not at all like the way his junior colleague has borne himself with respect to some East Tennessee postoffice appointments, particularly those at Elizabethton and Jonesboro, where at the instance of Congressman Sam R. Sells, two postmasters urged at satisfactory to the patrons of the office and denominated as former Brownlow men have been superseded by men picked by the first district congressman and approved by the junior senator. On the surface the amenities between the senators are altogether lovely, but beneath these are symptoms of soreness and inflammation.

On the recommendation of Congressman Austin, Hugh Johnson has been appointed postmaster at Edgemoor, Anderson county.

Mr. Austin has introduced a resolution to make Lincoln's birthday a national holiday.

PEOPLE VOTE NEXT WEEK

Waterworks Question Will Be Settled at the Polls.

VERY LITTLE OPPOSITION

Indications Are That the People Will be Overwhelmingly in Favor of Issuing Bonds for the Water and Sewer System.

On Saturday, April 29th., the people of Newport will gather at the polls for the purpose of voting on the issuance of \$50,000 worth of bonds for the installation of a system of waterworks and a system of sewers in Newport.

No municipal election ever held is approached with as little apparent interest from the voters. There does not seem to be the slightest opposition to the plan to vote the bonds and the people will certainly approve this course Saturday a week. However, those in favor of the municipal owned waterworks should not become too confident, as something of a fight might be made at the very last and some opposition develop which with carelessness on the part of the larger portion of the citizenship would mean defeat for that which the people have been longing for these many years.

Newport will be a busy place for the next several months as the engineers who have been given the contract plan to have their men at work here during the next few months and if these plans do not miscarry the streets of Newport will be underlaid with water pipes before another winter shows itself.

EAST TENNESSEE TEACHERS' ASS'N

Prof. J. H. Lowry of Park City Elected President of Association.

Knoxville, Tenn., April 15.—The last session of the East Tennessee association convention was held here today. Prof. J. R. Lowry, of Park City, was made president; J. B. Brown, of Chattanooga, first vice-president; and D. R. Haworth, of Morristown, second vice-president and Hodge Mathews, of Maryville, secretary. The selection of the next meeting place was left to the committee, but will no doubt be Johnson City. A plan was started to affiliate the association with those of Middle and West Tennessee, and have them meet on consecutive days the same week, so the same speakers can attend all three.

FISH HATCHERY PUTS OUT MANY LITTLE FISH

Duluth, April 14.—The United States fish hatchery in Duluth will put out 8,000,000 trout fry for this spring. There are also 15,000,000 wall-eyed pike and 10,000 white fish fry to be planted. Of the trout fry there are 7,200,000 lake, 400,000 speckled and 400,000 salmon, steel heads and grayling. It is claimed that the white fish is being diminished to a very large extent by Lake Superior, and it is hoped by liberal planting of fry to avoid extinction.

CHINESE MERCHANTS TO VISIT AMERICAN CITIES

Victoria, B. C., April 17.—Advices were brought by the Kamakura Maru that the Nanking taoi has been instructed from Peking to select thirty business men from localities visited by a delegation representing the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Pacific coast last year to return the visit, leaving China in May. Half a million dollars has been provided by the government to cover expenses of the trip.